

REMARKS

I. Introduction

The Office Action mailed March 14, 2006, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in response thereto. Original claim 9 has been canceled. New claim 10 has been added. Thus, claims 1-8 and 10 are now pending in the application.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-8 under 35 USC 112

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In response to the rejection, claim 1 has been amended so that the common exhaust port is recited as being included in the second plate (instead of being included in the first plate). Thus, claims 1-8 now conform to the embodiment described in the specification in connection with Figures 1 and 2 of the Drawings.

For consistency with claim 1, the Summary of the Invention and the Abstract of the Disclosure have been revised to reflect the same limitations as amended claim 1.

Original claim 9 was drawn to the embodiment of Figure 15 wherein the unitary valves comprise base-mounted valves. Since the preferred embodiment using base-mounted valves uses only one plate, the dependency from claim 1 which has two plates was confusing. Therefore, a new independent claim 10 has been introduced drawn to the use of base-mounted valves with a single plate having a plurality of ports on a face adjacent the unitary valve assemblies, the ports being interconnected by respective passages within the plate.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, claims 1-8 and 10 are now in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mark L. Mollon", written in black ink.

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